

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 11, Number 8

Sept.-Oct., 1956

SIMON BOLIVAR, LIBERATOR

Soldier, statesman and liberator of five countries, this Venezuelan hero makes a gallant figure in the Kimport gallery of historic persons.

Cecile has strongly molded his handsome features and with coal black hair and flashing dark eyes has given him a likeness known to every South American school child. His military costume emphasizing a wine colored coat, gold encrusted, and gold epaulets give him the dashing appearance that won the admiration of aristocrat and peasant alike.

If you want a single doll to symbolize our good neighbors to the South, or wish to add another star to your galaxy of American heroes, Bolivar would be ideal. And should you happen to be a bit rusty concerning the vast importance of The Great Liberator, his Kimport pedigree page gives this history in cap-



sule form. An erect 10½ inches, this striking portrait doll is No. 44B, \$15.00.

GOING TEXAS WAY, PARDNER?

As countless tourists have known, San Antonio is a delightful city to visit. The lode-star is the Alamo, so precious in American stories of heroism.

Now the Witte Museum in San Antonio is proving an equal attraction to lovers of history, and through the courtesy of our good collector friend, Miss Mabel E. Barbour, we have just seen a handsome brochure describing the treasures of the Museum. It all looks fascinating, but of course we were instantly drawn to the "Dolls House."

A unique feature of this museum is the assembling, right on the grounds, of four famous early day San Antonio houses, ranging from a typical log cabin to a handsome mansion. The Celso Navarro House is now called "The Dolls House" and in it may be seen some of the 640 dolls given in 1947 as the Callan-Barbour collection—as well as gift dolls from others. Kimport has a special pride in this project as our records show well up toward a hundred dolls that we sent the Barbour way ourselves, during the years. Best of all, we are still getting letters and orders from Miss Barbour.

THERE WILL BE A KIMPORT DOLL SHOW AT HORNE'S IN PITTSBURG

So many doll collectors in the Pittsburg area have asked for a show, and now the Joseph Horne Co. has scheduled our big exhibit for the week October 29 to November 3. This will coincide with their popular Foreign Fair, and be worth a trip from almost any distance.

Pittsburg has many enthusiastic collectors and we'll bring dolls of every type to please. Our European lines are especially colorful, and from world-wide sources we have secured a veritable United Nations assembly of dolls. There will be the best handwork of American doll makers, as well as excellent inexpensive dolls for starters.

Of great interest to the more experienced collectors will be our extensive showing of authentic and much wanted antiques. All dolls in the show will be plainly marked and for sale. We'd advise an early visit. Please tell your friends. A Kimport representative will be present to greet you.

**KIMPORT DOLL EXHIBIT, JOSEPH HORNE CO., PITTSBURG, PA.
OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 3**

SURE WE HAVE SPECIAL PETS— PROBABLY YOU ARE ONE OF THEM!

Anyway, we don't stock our dolls in bins and our collectors' names in dusty files! As you know our correspondence is as personal as a visit on a porch and you know about our family and we know about yours. It's not always good news that passes back and forth but it seems as though doll collectors are a particularly appreciative and happy kind of folks and we turn Kimport upside down if need be to please them.

THE DOLL OF THE MONTH IS A PERSONAL SERVICE— WITH A REWARD!

You give us a few hints; kind and size of dolls preferred, and price range, or definite selection, then for twelve months we'll mail a doll that will delight you and with the twelfth doll there will be a thirteenth free—an absolute bonus. The new Catalog, just out, will make your selecting easy.

This is our Georgie Johnsons' own department and she is always on the alert to find just the right dolls to send. As a result many collectors continue right along with a second or third series as soon as one is finished. Here is a typical letter from our long time friend, Mrs. Leona T. Myer: "Thank you for taking such interest and good thought and care in sending the Doll of the Month to my granddaughter. She is now going into the 8th grade or the last year of Jr. High. While they will cost more, you might start sending her the Presidents of the U. S. A. and their Ladies. She is interested in fashion and history."

Would you like us to send further details of the Doll of the Month?

AND CONTINUING

About eighteen years ago, Kimport started to furnish dolls to the O. C. Hudson family, in 'York state. They were a discriminating trio, Doctor and Mrs. Hudson, and daughter, Dorothy, with lively interest in all character dolls, but especially in American Indians, these from as many tribes as possible. Through many years, we furthered our own education concerning Indian dolls by searching them out for the Hudsons, writing up their pedigree pages and hence appreciating the detailed differences in these great families of native North Americans.

More than two hundred and fifty dolls went from us to them, then a summer when tragedy struck; the joy of collection died with their Dorothy, but, as gallant hearted folk have always done, the tangled threads must somehow make a new, engrossing pattern.

We'd like to share Catherine Hudson's recent letter of solution to disposing of their many dolls whose chapter on bringing interest to their home was ended.

"We thought you would be happy to know that all of the dolls have now been given to museums as a permanent gift memorial to our daughter, Dorothy Hudson Mavroyanis. The Indian dolls are in The Museum of the American Indian, New York City. All the others went to the Brooklyn Children's Museum. This way they may benefit many people, and we feel that is the mission for them."

FUNDS IN NEED

Freda Webb's Doll of the Month project is for one President or wife, which means she could keep campaigning for a sixty-six month stretch. However, she doubles up once in a while, and that makes her free thirteenth bonus worth more. Mrs. Webb recently wrote enthusiastically of her enjoyment of these dependables, as well as of the foreign folk which she buys from time to time.

"Sometime this summer my dolls will be on display at our church to help raise a little money for its building fund. Don't you think our church is pretty?"

This was written on notepaper, faced with a delightful offset print of their truly beautiful church in Ojai, California.

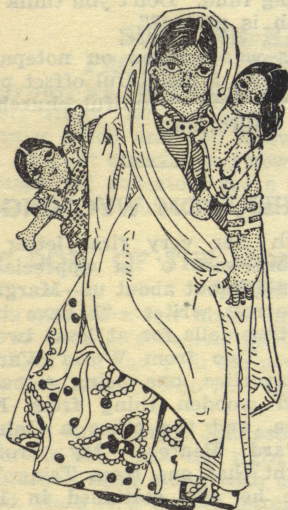
THIS FROM WYOMING

With her very first letter to Kimport—sort o' in appreciation for finding out about us—Marguerite Barrett writes:—"I have been collecting dolls for at least twenty years. Two from World War II are favorites, one being a native carved wooden thing from New Guinea, and the other a Chinese Standard Bearer. My brother brought that one from Tsing Tau where he was stationed in 1946. The head looks like bisque, and its standard of flags is topped with a crest of symbols.

"The latest different one is 'Pearly'—an English costermonger whose black felt outfit, including the hat, is all bedecked with buttons!"

LATE ARRIVALS

Our arrivals are not only "late" but oftimes surprising. One can take un-announced changes as for granted because creative craftsmen the world over resent being crowded into the groove of repetition. "\$1.00 for one doll—O.K. BUT, Oh, you want a dozen?—That might be \$20.00; too much work, not any fun to make him over!"



So it has come to pass that our new shipments of those all hand-made typically India dolls arrived larger (9" and 9½") and even more bespangled and tinselled. All cloth with cloth mask faces and queerly

wound fingers. Colors vary, gold brocade with turquoise and purple, magenta with deep mystic blue and silver, wine-red with print and pale gold—exotic combinations all, but only the trousers of Raja and complete costume of Ayah are definitely white. He, in a wound silk turban is tallest, No. 671, \$3.50.

Rani sometimes has two sets of earrings, as well as the one for her nose, and elaborate head bangle. No. 671A, \$3.50.

Dancing Girl is similar, ornate and alluringly formed. No. 672, \$3.50.

Ayah with two Hindu babies, No. 670, \$3.50.

Our East Indian pair from British Guiana were one time countrymen of the Moslem Ayah. These Hindus migrated from Ceylon to tropical South America, almost a century ago, following the abolition of slavery. Cheap labor was imperative and these willing, hard-working agrarians came in to stay, adding their knowledge of the tea industry to the progress of that tiny colony. These almost grotesque dolls were molded of a strange rubber substance—perhaps balata sap is used. They are dressed in vivid cottons, and as is the Hindu custom, the women wear large brass ear and nose ornaments. Truly they are unique representatives of Guiana, a little known corner of the world. No. 279 — Hindu Man — \$3.95. No. 279A — Hindu Woman — \$3.95.

If their dolls prove the point, the Balinese either seduce you with beauty or scare you to death! Such alluring women, such make believe devils! This time we are talking about their ceremonial witch dancer, body made of raffia wrapped



fibers, face a carved and painted wooden mask and garment plaited with wood strips like a basket. He's a demon, all nine inches of him, standing firm on his wooden base, and unlike any other doll in the world. Native craft, made in Bali, No. 560C, only \$1.95.

AMALIA, a replica of the Greek Queen, has a regal beauty and stately mien which is set off by her charming costume of the Greek court. From the many romantic and picturesque styles in Greece, the official dress was chosen from Sparta, land of brave men and beautiful women. The skirt of a rich-toned silk is delightfully feminine, but the jacket and matching bonnet are jauntily military. Her little pancake cap with its dangling tassel and its insouciant angle makes its wearer quite irresistible.



Amalia is a Queenly little figure. No. 853A—Amalia, 10" Queen \$9.95.



Dolls depicting the world crafts and avocations are always preferred, and after a rush of exotic and ceremonial Orientals, a handsome Ceylon fisherman is a choice new offering. This doll is entirely hand-carved, with movable joints, painted eyes and lips and an over all dusky brown in the wood. For a fisherman we admit the costume is rather elegant.

Long maroon skirt has batik motif, a yellow sash, knitted cap and gay neck scarf, but in his hand he carries a fish pole with fish dangling! No. 650C is nine inches high. Priced \$7.50.

AS SCHOOL HELPS

Our letters from Elizabeth Werres always seem to slant a bit towards favoring 4th and 5th grades. Miss Werres volunteered to write a few suggestions, merely out of gratitude for the lively teaching aid her own doll collection has proven to be.

"Oh, not that it could provide a complete study—but what it does (and did) do is create new or additional interests and pave the way to these wonderful "Why" demands. State dolls prove history and geography can be fun! Grade school children are always fascinated by the dolls and spurred on to discover why each doll is dressed as it is, and why it can be the representative of its state. This has opened the way for a delightful study of our country, it's vast varieties of trades and types of industries and individuals. I've used the dolls also to climax such a study, with each child responsible for a placard explaining one doll's State in a display.

"There are unlimited possibilities for dolls in educational fields, not only our own country's representation, but dolls from all over the world bring local costumes, customs, religious beliefs, etc., right into the classroom, to our American children.

MADE—OR BORN?

Years and years ago, when Doll Talk was a fledgling, we did a few numbers of 'Tales of our Doll Makers.' These concerned foreign folk who had become Kimport sources, and yes, perhaps these stories should have been continued and expanded.

As to American Doll Makers, there are thousands! A few have achieved outstanding success commercially through their manufactured lines—for instance, the Story Book lines of Nancy Ann. There are also a few artists whose creations are destined to be heirlooms of the future as one-of-a-kind exclusives. I hesitate to list eight or ten who would be unanimously so acclaimed as any known list would undoubtedly omit some others truly clever and deserving. One would be brash indeed and as simple as Simon to decree "Thumbs Up!—Thumbs Down" as to who should be listed in today's Who's Who of Dollmakers.

Amateurs almost always have the most fun. Making a doll can be an expression of sheer inhibition as for instance, the chewing gum sharecroppers that came to my desk one time. These little clay complexioned widgets were so funny that I still giggle when remembering them. They were not complete dolls, but a pair of thumb-nail modeled heads leaning over a (card)board fence—just two rascally looking old cronies, well chewed, then hard seasoned. Oh, no, their maker wouldn't think of tiring her jaws and fingers in repetition; beside who would pay for a wad of second-hand Dentine?

Doll making can become a task in earnest when ones ambition leads to modeling, to ceramics that necessitate expensive equipment, to carving wood and first of all to visualizing and pattern making a doll that will be wanted.

Then, unless the creation is for self-satisfaction only, the prosaic problem of marketing is next. We inhabitants of today's world are not too prone on beating down bushes to wear a path to some obscure door where the reward would be that "better mouse trap!"

But now, after this long and partially pessimistic preamble, here are excerpts from Mrs. W. E. Chafey that should bounce your doll-making enthusiasm back into top bracket. Around Christmas, she had sent us "just for fun" a pair of her Grandma and G'pa, a blithe li'le pair of oldsters with one of those loop end bars ('come with hook and eyes) for wire rimmed spectacles on their stock-inette heads. Cute.

"I sell them readily as we live only six miles from Glassbar State Teachers College. The Arts and Crafts teacher there, brings each new class here for a doll talk, or I go over there, and give a demonstration on making G'ma. I put all the 'makin's' for a doll in an envelope (thread, needle, thimble, etc.) and hand out three to people who want to make one along with me—then I don't talk too fast, or miss explaining some detail. I always take plenty of finished ones along and usually sell about \$20 worth. Mostly, it's fun, because they are all people who do things with their hands, and also teach it. I always take 'Madam Pouf' along and tell her story if there is time."

This led to our request to Mrs. Chafey—Please divulge on Madam Pouf, so-o, here's more from Mildred C. herself:

"The Madam Pouf story was given at the Chicago Doll Convention by one of their members, but I'm sorry, I've forgotten whom. It is the first part of a book called 'The Ragman of Paris' by Elizabeth Orton Jones, published by Oxford University Press, New York, \$1.75. The first chapter tells how Ragman found two little ragamuffins in a bag of rags, and took them home for Madam Pouf to make new shirts for them. She proceeds to show them her petticoats (she has 18) for them to choose which they would like for their shirts. Of course, they don't like any till the last—a blue and white plaid. That one I have left loose and just tucked up under the others, and I pull it off, spread it out, and pretend to cut the shirts. The boys in the meantime have only their heads sticking out of the rag-bag. When the shirts are finished, I take the boys out, dressed in the same material. I've added a few lines at the end, there—'As the boys ran to show Ragman their new shirts, they stopped and turned to Madam Pouf, and said, 'We love you, Madame Pouf.'"

"I have loaned the dolls and book to several schools, within a radius of twenty miles, and I wish I'd kept a log of her journeys. I had her at Girl Scout Camp for six weeks last year, and she was part of a campfire program each week. We cured one bad case of home-sickness—a darling little ten year old, who had never been away from home before—by letting her take Madam Pouf to bed with her. She said, 'She is nice and soft, just like my mother.'"



Because this particular issue of Doll Talk was "put to bed" early, we couldn't lay away a special cupboard full of antiques as usual. Our printer's family takes off for a month's vacation; we from Kimport go a'gadding too, so we'll only mention a few stock items and be generous with information articles from some good friends who can speak with authority.

These little things you will thoroughly enjoy; even though they are inexpensive, each one is delightful. Three are reprints, on paper that takes to hand-tinting, of the famous old John Greene Chandler paper dolls and their clothes, with original, ornate covers dated 1857. "Jack and Fairy Lightfoot" is one of the 1948 reprint, two quaint children, each with five slip-over outfits in pre-Civil War styles. Complete with story and informative text, No. 189, 75c.

In envelopes, rococo decorated and lettered, are No. 189A "Alice" and No. 189C "Carrie," also of 1857—but re-issued in 1952. These sweet little girl dolls have only two outfits each, but precious; 50c is their price.

Should you be the possessor of any paper dolls that really came out before the Civil War, you would certainly own treasures! The dainty Jenny Lind sets would be amongst the most highly prized of all. So, this year to add to his famous reprints, Mr. Hosmer brought out an eight page booklet

telling the story of Jenny Lind and of the pretty little paper dolls made of her, in various operatic roles. There is the doll, of course, and eight sets of gown and headdress. Printed in black on water color paper, there are detailed color instructions also in the book for the following costumes shown:—

Amina in Bellini's "Somnambulist"
Valentine in Myerbeer's "Hugenots"
Mary in Donizetti's "The Daughter of the Regiment"

Donna Anna in Mozart's "Don Juan"
Norma in Bellini's "Norma"
Vielka in Myerbeer's "Vielka"
Agathe in Von Weber's "The Free-shooter"

Concert Dress

All come enclosed in an envelope, 6 x 9, with its proper Jenny Lind reproduction cover. The doll is scant 5 inches tall. Hand-coloring was used on the originals which date 1845-50. A hand-painted set of these is priced \$5.00, but of course they are pretty, like pen and ink drawings, just as they come. No. 189J, \$2.00.

One other treasure for anyone who is fascinated by this paper phase is an exceptionally informative article "Hand-Made and Home-Made American Dolls," H. H. Hosmer, Jr., reprinted in booklet form from New York History, October, 1952. We have a few copies; they are \$1.00 each.

Dating back into the 1880's is a little stock of heavy satine squares, about 6½ inch size, with the most beautifully printed (oilette process) little girl heads on them. Unusually decorative to frame, or they might be used someway for a handmade cloth doll's head. No. 189X, \$1.00 each.

LA POUPEE MODELE

A note by Ruth E. and R. C. Mathes

We have just come across a copy of a French magazine called "La Poupée Modèle," *Journal des Petites Filles*, of October 1878. The cover states that it is in its fifteenth year and we have since heard of a copy as late as 1881. It has one short story about dolls and a continued story; then four pages of instructions on how to make up dresses, patterns for which were included with the magazine. There is a full page advertisement for a hand-operated Wheeler & Wilson sewing machine and smaller ones for doll-house furniture. It was published by the same firm that got out "Le Journal des Demoiselles." A question and answer column indicates that this magazine had a wide circulation outside of France.

This magazine provides some valuable background to the question of the propriety of applying the term "fashion dolls" to the luxury dolls of the 1860 to 90 period, in the sense that they were used as messengers of adult fashion. This is a question which we have discussed at some length in a paper "FASHION DOLLS or LADY DOLLS, A Question of Terminology" presented at a meeting of the Doll Collectors of America at Peterborough, N. H. on July 9, 1955, and reproduced in the I. D. C. C. Bulletins for September, October, November, 1955. It brings out clearly the great importance that was placed on the elaborate dressing of these luxury dolls for the amusement and edification of young girls. It provides one more link in the chain of evidence that these dolls

were made as toys for children and had no more than a fortuitous use in the field of transmitting adult fashions. In addition to this highly specialized medium for the aristocratic doll, the adult fashion magazines in this period would often include a group of styles for dolls.

NO SLACKERS

What a busy, busy folk we doll enthusiasts do be! In one mail recently, a short but highly satisfying note from "Darcy." Sandwiched in between her duties as editor of DOLL NEWS, she is always asking and answering inter-com questions.

Another from Elizabeth Kennett Whitfield, welcoming a recent doll from Kimport and confiding "Landscaping for our new home is next up, and also I am working madly on the traverse drapes which we decided should be made by hand; to date, a million stitches seems like a conservative estimate." Me-oh-my, what a lot of proper doll costuming that could mean!

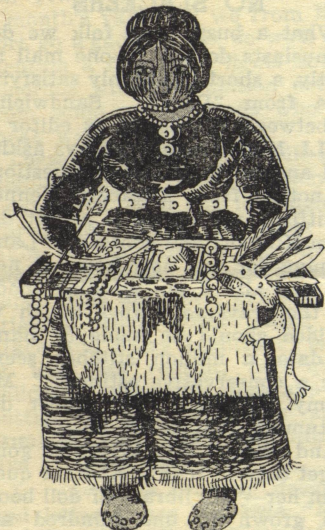
And when is Mrs. Whitfield going to get time to read? Another quote from her—"My library of doll books has grown to one hundred and thirty volumes — some reference, some stories."

Another letter that same mail was from—better not name from whom as she was so frank, but procrastinating—"You can see by the date that I started this want list four long months ago!"

Cheers for such energetic and efficient folk. They bode cheer to us all just to know that the busiest ones are dependable prospects for more work and responsibilities.

MORE STATE REPRESENTATIVES

It was fun last Doll Talk to round up some of those tell-tale state dolls again. You see, Kimport cherishes the ideal to (even intermittently) supply 48 dolls of whom one could say—"I'll bet that one is from—— and of course those represent——", but definitely!



Arizona and Arkansas were too low in stock to offer last time. One never knows in this business where artistic novelties are the product, just what will be again available but luckily "Minnie-Mamie," Arizona peddler is back, her copper tray stocked with all the Indian crafts except pottery. Yes, there is beading, weaving, metal work, pieces of turquoise and petrified wood. 8 inches tall, distinctively different and a good value! No. 125, \$4.50.



Arkansas Traveler takes mighty little cash outlay—got no shoes, got no news, even on ol' high cost o' livin'! 7 inches tall, yellor pine, jeans and a whoppin' big yarn mustache. No. 151, at \$1.50.



Iowa was frankly forgotten in that last list; we apologize to the Tall Corn Farmer, who is a splendid sturdy chap with unshucked ears of that golden crop in his big capable hands. Nice doll—he'd do to represent a great industry as well as one state. No. 147, \$7.50.



"Old Salt" is a fisherman right off the Maine coast, where his artistic creator, Jeanne Maker, lives on a rocky island offshore. She breathes the sea and its traditions so her doll is a true replica of the men who risk their lives in small boats to bring in the catch vital to their families and a delight to their customers. He stands sturdily on his own base, is correctly garbed in yellow oilcloth, has protecting rubber hat and boots and out of the stockinette modeled face with fringe beard there sticks his pugnacious pipe. 9 inches tall, No. 153, \$7.50.



There are the figures for Sara-toga, Seagirt and Newport. Maybe fifty years late, but the memory lingers on. The old nostalgic picture is recreated by our Gay Nineties dolls. There's the handle-bar mustachioed dandy with gay striped coat and boutonniere, and his doll all picture hat, ruffled lace and billowing skirts. A peek at her ankles would have been an adventure, but they say—! 7 inches tall, each mounted on bases with carefully modeled faces. You'll love them for what your folks may have seemed. No. 99B and 99C, \$4.50 each.

From the Latin 'Pupa' meaning girl, have stemmed the French "poupee," German "puppe" and our own "puppet"—all words for doll.

CLAM DIGGER BOWS OUT

Sources come and go, due to many legitimate causes. Through the many years that we at Kimport have contacted doll makers, from literally all over the world, there has ever been pleasure in working together and almost always regrets when the time came to sever our little partnerships.

You who collected state dolls a few years back probably included the jolly and ingeniously made Clam Digger from Rhode Island. His pedigree page explained the roly-boly eyes to be nautilus swirls; clam shell feet, trousers and the haul of baby clams in his shell stuff arms made a seafarin' gent of distinction!

Florence B. Brown designed our digger and fitted the making of him in with other artistic pursuits which included important character dolls for libraries, etc.

A recent letter from the talented Mrs. Brown says: "Sorry to have been so long in answering and very sorry I have been unable to make any of the clam dolls since those I made for you, years ago, it seems! An invalid then, time has not brought more strength. In the past four years I have made only two of the character dolls, as I can work only a few minutes at a time. A clam doll had to be finished at once, as the wax and glue are so uncertain, if left.

"Seems curious now how the making of shell dolls came about. After living for twenty-five years with all the interesting shells practically a part of our back garden, I had never taken time to examine them until just after Pearl Harbor, then two grandchildren, five and seven years old, brought me many, saying they were going to

sell them and buy bonds to beat the enemy! And the bonds were bought!"

"When I started the Clam Digger, I had no idea you would want so many — and I regret having caused you any uncertainty. The hurricane too, carried the shells far away and the added years have helped neither our old beach, nor me!"

STATE STATISTICS

Mrs. H. Meade Welty recently received a gift for her own state (Wisconsin) dolls, but aside from these she has been most consistently alphabetical. No. 1, Alabama Annie, and right on down to the middle of that rather large group of "M" states. Of course, from where we sit, Missouri's own Mississippi River youngsters, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, are really a high light.

The Welty collection had especially well written newspaper stories recently in Beloit and Janesville, Wisconsin, papers. Mrs. W. did look prettier than some of the A-C-D-F-G-I-K-L characters—better focus, no doubt!

"GIDDI 'UP — WHOA!"

Anne Davis is the Oregon doll maker who uses dried pears for some of her most irresistible old characters. We would say that she appreciates other dolls, too, having to date seventy-five Kimports in her collection of five hundred. And now she writes:—

"My doll collection has a meaning now, as I have two little nieces. The dolls can be willed to them—they'll probably be crazy about horses!"

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.



Q. What can you tell me about those china name heads—their bodies, limbs and dating?

A. Briefly, we have had 12—Agnes, Bertha, Dorothy, Edith, Esther, Ethel, Florence, Helen, Mabel, Marion, Pauline, Ruth. These in a range of about five sizes, were “heads only” from the German factory; limbs should have been china and bodies the ordinary sawdust stuffed sort. They were made both before and after 1891; the earlier unmarked except for a number, those later stamped Germany and sometimes Patent Applied For.

Q. 'Any suggestions as to what cleaner or dressing to use on old leather arms and shoes?

A. Saddle Soap supplies an oil that prolongs the supple, life quality to leather.

Q. What is a votive doll?

A. “A votive doll is an infant figure placed at the altar with her prayers by a wife desiring a child.”

(By R. C. Mathes)

Q. Tell me something. Why is a Bru never listed in Doll Talk?

A. “First place. ‘NO Bru-nan-nas Today!’ Second place, when and if one came to Kimport—and we should broadcast it, there would justly be a multitudinous clamor as to—“why, why, when you know I’d written to say please let me know first.”

Q. What arms and legs are suitable for a metal head doll?

A. So far as we know, metal limbs were never manufactured to go with the Minerva, Juno, etc., heads. In almost all mediums, as well as just metal, the making of doll heads only was a business in itself. Cloth, leather, composition or common type bisque hands were most often combined with stuffed bodies for the metal heads. Leather or oilcloth made-on shoes, composition, even wooden legs were commonly used, but rarely china, or bisque with kid. All rules fail when a new head was bought and an old body that had lost its original one, was a family possession.

Q. Do you have any information about a Baby Stuart bonnet doll?

A. Baby Stuart, a good one, by Heubach, I think. It was copied by H.D.D.H. under the regime of Emma Clear.

Q. Please, Madam Authority, would you consider it presumptuous to pretty up some of our plainer foreign dolls? I’d only like to substitute better materials and handwork.

A. Why not? Just mind the quality, textures and probabilities as well as pet color harmony and neater sewing.

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"Thanks for the dolls. The penny wooden I have wanted for a long time. The Mountie is a far cry from the ones I was 'raised up' with in Sask. Canada, but he is cute." —Estella M. Brown, Calif.

"When I see that petticoat, I will be able to tell you just about when the lace was made, if I find its what I think it is. All lace has a history and that's another one of my hobbies! Have been asked to give an exhibit and talk on Indian Relics at the Rock Cruiser Club."

—Mrs. Mark Douglass, Wash.

"My daughter who is studying the 'Legend of Sleepy Hollow', took Ichabod Crane to school. The teacher and children were delighted—they thought he was fabulous!"

—Mrs. F. H. Stohr, Penn.

"In my doll talks and exhibits at church and civic meetings (gratis of course) I show dolls covering a span of about 200 years, from my wooden Queen Anne down to dolls of the present day, featuring Kimport historic portraits, one H.D.D.H., etc."

—Myrtle R. Kears, N. J.

"I have been up to my double chin turning straight pieces of wire into ballet dancers, organ grinders, clowns, convicts, flower vendors, and such—sixteen altogether! I am eternally grateful for my interest in dollmaking and collecting. It helps me keep out of the dumps."

—Mae Underwood, Ill.

"To me half the fun of Doll Collecting is dressing the cuties. It seems so commercial just to buy and sell them like little slaves."

—Helen B. Clark, Iowa

"Sometime why don't you compile a list of people like Frederic March, and the union leader, Richard Frankenstein, and Mary Margaret McBride—and some such folk who collect dolls? Then we collectors could use them for ammunition against the steely stares of unbelieving friends."

—Irene Nielsen, Calif.

"I still read Doll Talk with interest, and still give doll gifts to my two godchildren who are collectors. Three of these Kimports recently took prizes at the Ithaca county fair." —Amy Golding, Mass.

"If you don't mind, deep-freeze that Schoenhut Baby for one month and I'll thaw him out, then. 'Am eagerly watching for the parcel post man and my other two.'"

—Helen M. Scopes, N. Y.

"By now you'd guess correctly I have a small doll hospital, but specialize in clothes. The children call it 'pink heaven' up here where I sew."

—Eleanor Jean Carter, Md.

"My own little bedroom is too crowded for good taste, but first thing in the morning and last thing at night, I do enjoy my precious little dollies in their cozy cabinets. My collection has to grow slowly, but it's probably appreciated as much as anybody's, anywhere!"

—Helen Lindquist, Nebr.

"My 'Gay Nineties' lady will be adorable when dressed like my aunt's wedding gown. Since the dress was quite elaborate, I foresee many hours of which I shall love every split second of it!"

—Cornelia Christopher, N. J.

"While in the Schwarzwold last summer, I neglected to get the doll with the red pom-pons on her hat for my collection. So glad you have them."—Frieda Reese, Penna.

"Each time I write I've tried to tell you how much joy the dolls brought, but above all, I appreciate the contacts made with you through our letter writing and through reading Doll Talk."

—Florence Eikelberner, Wash.

"My wife has a doll collection, as your cash register well knows. When these gift days come around, I am always in a turmoil as to what to give her, so I am going to try dolls, with your help."

—Mr. L. W. Dickinson, Wisc.

"I am looking forward to getting the Betsy Ross doll for my little grand-daughter of the same name. It will be a Christmas present."

—Mrs. L. E. Osborne, Penn.

"I am very fond of nicely carved, jointed wooden dolls and that Swiss doll from you is just that! I have just come back from a visit to Germany and Switzerland and scoured the towns for similar wooden dolls but could find nothing as nice. I take my dolls about a good bit and give a talk on doll history."

—Virginia Dawson, Quebec

THIS FROM KANSAS

A repeat success story came from Garden Club enthusiast, Mrs. E. W. Raspberry, who of course doubles in Dolls along with flowers. "I entered our largest, a 36 inch jointed bisque, wearing my own little girlhood clothes. She really needed your \$4.50 size doll stand. We grouped her by a little table all set with my own play tea set, all intact, by the way, after quite a 'many years.'"

IDEAS, THANKS

Betimes we feature those "Odd Material" dolls, made of everything from jade to chewing gum, but there are also clever tricks that could well be assembled into a "Dolls-made-into" group. "Mammy-mixer cover" is such a crisp and smartly constructed rag doll top with billowing, red check skirts. Ellanor Thomas of Pennsylvania is responsible for this useful one.

And now comes another household helper "thought up" by Lillian McDonald of Virginia, who explains:—"Please do use this bath powder doll as she will last quite a while. Her crochet clothing can be washed. Refill by removing tape on back. I have taped the holes on top to keep the powder from spilling in transit. The arms have been glued in place as the elastic will not last as long as the doll. I bought quite a quantity of these heavy Japanese celluloid Kewpies years ago. My children have enjoyed giving them for party gifts."

We'd like to explain, in case some of you wonder just how, that a crocheted cap becomingly covered what might otherwise be "holes in his head."

LIKE OLD FRIENDS RETURNED

*Peru
2 Rows*

Mauricio of Peru furnished us dolls for a long time, then our letters were returned unanswered and our checks uncashed. This last year Kim McKim determined to get more of the colorful Inca dolls — and finally contact was re-established. In Vol. 2, No. 1 of Doll Talk 1939 we described these dolls so adequately that we repeat the description. The dolls are identically the same and the price raised not a cent. How's that for holding the line against inflation? Best of all the dolls are here, ready for delivery.

High in the Andes mountains of South America live the indigent Peruvian Indians, descendants of those mighty empire-builders, the Incas. And from there comes this magnificent couple of Peruvian dolls. Pretty? No, one could never call them that, but patience and fortitude are graphically revealed in their hand-modeled faces.

Stolid, unemotional, the woman spins on endlessly in her primitive fashion, unaware of the picture she makes in her homespun costume of green and scarlet, pink and yellow, black and white, and with her upturned bowl of a hat. Though strangely sober for one so young, her face is not unattractive with its high nose, full cheeks and firm chin.

Time has dealt more harshly with her companion who wears hand-woven wool of somber black, enlivened with touches of green and yellow and firebright red. His bronzed face reveals in sunken cheeks and long wrinkle-furrows the hunger and privation he has



had to undergo, just as the high cheekbones and aquiline nose reveal his racial heritage. Painted on his head is the elaborate knitted cap, which every Peruvian wears under the large "pancake" hat. Photography cannot adequately convey the texture of the native fabrics, the glorious colors, or the artistry of modeling. The humor in their overly large feet is lost in a miniature picture. Details such as the "silver" spoon pin catching the woman's shawl or the tasseled bag hanging at the man's side are noticeable only when holding the dolls in ones hand.

No two are exactly alike since each is modeled by hand. Standing a sturdy eleven inches, they are \$15.00 the pair — dolls of which you can really be proud! Peruvian man is No. 377, his mate, No. 377A.

KIMPORT DOLLS, Independence, Mo.